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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Draft report submitted by the Chair

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/107 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

II. Opening and duration of the session

A. Organizational meeting

2. The Special Committee held the 1st meeting of its 2015 session on 19 February in New York. The meeting was opened, on behalf of the Secretary-General, by the acting Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen. The Special Committee elected officers for the 2015 session (see sect. B below), acceded to the participation of observers and adopted the organization of work, including the provisional programme of work and timetable.

3. At the same meeting, the Committee reaffirmed its decision to hold the Caribbean regional seminar in Managua from 19 to 21 May 2015 and adopted the rules of procedure, the agenda and the theme of the seminar. In that connection, the representative of Nicaragua made a statement. It decided to extend invitations to the seminar to the officials of Non-Self-Governing Territories, Member States, administering Powers, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, experts and regional and non-governmental organizations. Under the item entitled "Other matters", the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement.

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B. Officers

4. Also at its 1st meeting, the Special Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Xavier Lasso **Mendoza** (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairs:

Rodolfo **Reyes Rodriguez** (Cuba)
Desra **Percaya** (Indonesia)
Vandi Chidi **Minah** (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:

Bashar **Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic)

III. Caribbean regional seminar

5. The Special Committee held the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar in Managua, where it was officially represented by eight of its members, namely, four members of the Bureau (representatives of Ecuador (Chair), Cuba and Indonesia (Vice-Chairs) and the Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)) and four representatives selected on the basis of equitable regional representation, as follows: Ethiopia (Group of African States), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (Group of Asia-Pacific States), Russian Federation (Group of Eastern European States) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). In addition, four other members of the Special Committee in attendance were Chile, China, Nicaragua and Papua New Guinea. The 12 members of the Special Committee in attendance prepared the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which were adopted by the Special Committee.

6. The Chief of the Decolonization Unit of the Department for Political Affairs read a special message from the Secretary-General. Representatives of eight Non-Self-Governing Territories, nine experts, the 12 Committee members mentioned in paragraph 5 above and representatives of 10 other Member States, one fund and programme and one regional commission made statements. More than 80 interventions were made during the seminar, which was concluded with the adoption of a resolution of gratitude to the Government and people of Nicaragua. The report of the seminar is available on the website of the Special Committee. The 12 members of the Special Committee in attendance prepared the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which were adopted by the Special Committee and which will be contained in the report of the Special Committee covering its work in 2015.

IV. Resumed session

Proceedings

7. The Special Committee convened its resumed session from 15 to 26 June 2015, during which it held six meetings. On 15 June, it held its 2nd meeting, at which it adopted its updated programme of work and timetable and considered four agenda items. Under the item entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing

Territories under Article 73 (*e*) of the Charter of the United Nations", the Special Committee adopted a related draft resolution submitted by the Chair. In the consideration of the item entitled "Dissemination of information on decolonization", representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs made presentations. The representatives of Cuba, Sierra Leone, Chile, Nicaragua, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements on that item, as did the representatives of Algeria and Morocco, participating as observers in the meeting. The Committee adopted the draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair.

8. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of sending visiting missions to Territories", and the representatives of Papua New Guinea and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements, as did the representatives of Algeria and Morocco, participating as observers in the meeting. The Special Committee deferred action on the item in order to allow for further review of the draft resolution submitted by the Chair.

9. At the same meeting, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of Gibraltar", under which the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, a representative of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group and the representative of Spain, participating as an observer in the meeting, made statements. It decided to continue its consideration of the item at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its seventieth session.

10. From 16 to 18 June, the Special Committee held informal consultations on the draft resolutions before it at its 2015 session, and came to a consensus on those texts ahead of their consideration.

11. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 22 June, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 23 June 2014 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners", under which representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements. Statements were also made by 36 petitioners. The draft resolution on the item submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was adopted.

12. At its 5th meeting, on 23 June, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of Tokelau" and the Ulu-o-Tokelau and representatives of Sierra Leone and New Zealand made statements. The draft resolution on the item submitted by Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone was adopted.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the item entitled "Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands" and, in that connection, the representative of the territorial Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands made a statement. The Special Committee adopted the draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair. It then decided that, with effect from its 2016 session, it would separate the

11 Territories addressed under that draft resolution, in order to consider them individually.

14. Also at its 5th meeting, the Special Committee resumed its consideration of the item entitled "Question of sending visiting missions to Territories" and adopted the related draft resolution submitted by the Chair. It decided to defer the consideration of the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", in order to allow the Secretariat adequate time to determine the programme budget implications of the related draft resolution submitted by the Chair.

15. At the same meeting, the Special Committee considered the items entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", under which the Committee heard a statement by the Russian Federation in explanation of position before action, and "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories" and adopted the related draft resolutions on those items submitted by the Chair.

16. Also at its 5th meeting, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of Western Sahara", under which the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements. The representative of Frente Polisario also made a statement. The representatives of Algeria, South Africa and Morocco, participating as observers in the meeting, also made statements. The Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the item at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its seventieth session.

17. At its 6th meeting, on 25 June, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas", under which two members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Council and two speakers asserting ancestry from the early settlers made statements. The Special Committee also heard statements on this item by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, participating as an observer. Statements were also made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of CELAC), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, China, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Committee adopted the related draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

18. At its 7th meeting, on 25 June, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas" and heard statements by the representatives of Cuba, Indonesia, Tunisia, Uruguay (also on behalf of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)), Brazil (on behalf of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)), Mexico, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, Colombia, El Salvador, Brazil, Honduras, Costa Rica, Peru and Paraguay, participating as observers. The Committee also heard statements by the representative of Ecuador and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, participating as an observer.

19. At its 8th meeting, on 26 June, the Special Committee considered the item entitled "Question of French Polynesia" and a member of the Assembly of French Polynesia within the Union pour la Démocratie made a statement.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the item entitled "Question of New Caledonia", during which statements were made by the President of the Congress of New Caledonia, the representative of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Congress, the President of the Groupe UC-FLNKS in the Congress and the Secretary of the International Relations Unit of FLNKS.

21. Also at its 7th meeting, the Committee considered and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the 2015 Caribbean regional seminar.

22. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft report covering its work in 2015, including the recommendations of the Special Committee, and authorized its Secretary to prepare the final report within the allotted time frame.

Annex

Proposed meeting schedule for 2016

1. Taking into account its probable workload for 2016 and based on its current agenda items, the Special Committee shall consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February	1 meeting
March	1 meeting
June	Up to 7 meetings (5 to 7 meetings per week)

(b) *Bureau*

Up to 10 meetings during the year

2. The proposed programme shall not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted, and the Special Committee may, early in 2016, review its scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments.